

INFORMATIONAL HEARING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 6:00 p.m, via Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Winnie Valenza; Library Director Susan Green; Lister Meg Eberhardt; Visitors Grace Vinson (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission); Lucy Blue; Tom Daley; Bradley Materick; Rich and Kass Phillips

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Chris explained how the Zoom meeting works. People are allowed to unmute themselves as long as people don't talk over each other. He explained that people can raise their hands within the software.

Announcements: Bobbi read a list of vacant positions. People are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk's Office or the Selectboard for more information. Chris encouraged people to drop their absentee ballots off by Monday if possible. Bobbi explained that voting may be inside or outside depending on the weather. Meg spoke about the townwide reappraisal that will be conducted this year. Bobbi reminded people that the appraisers will be carrying identification and their company name will be on their vehicles. Grace Vinson from CVRPC explained the hazard mitigation plan update that is underway. She encouraged people to complete the survey that has been posted on the town's website. She will be attending Selectboard meetings as part of the process and the public is welcome to attend. Lucy Blue asked whether the Marshfield Dam would be included in the plan. Grace indicated that it was in the 2015 plan and she anticipates that it will be included in the 2020 plan as well. Rich explained that the PUC approved major upgrades to the dam so it will be much safer than it was. They are going to be working on the emergency spillway as well.

Articles 1 and 2: Election of Officers: There were no questions.

Article 3: Essential Services Budget: There were no questions.

Article 4: Jaquith Library Appropriation: There were no questions. Rich pointed out that this is the same amount as last year. Susan pointed out that the Library will reopen on April 20 for browsing.

Article 5: Marshfield Historical Society Appropriation: There were no questions. Bobbi pointed out that this is the same amount as last year.

Article 6: Cemetery Appropriation: There were no questions. This is the same amount as last year.

Article 7: Commuter Bus Appropriation: There were no questions. This is the same amount as last year.

Article 8: Property Tax Collection: Bobbi explained that we have to set the tax due dates. In the future we could set a standard date such as the first Friday or second Friday, to make a uniform policy.

Articles 9 - 28: Appropriations to Outside Organizations: There were no questions.

Chris asked if there were any other questions or comments. Bobbi stated that the Town has mailed out 380 ballots and we have 153 that have been returned so far. Winnie reminded people that dog licenses are due April 1st. Kass Phillips thanked the Town officers for putting together the meeting. Rich and Chris recognized Laurie Colgan for her years of service on the Marshfield Selectboard. This will be her last meeting. She will be helping out on election day and then she will be finished. She will be missed. Lucy Blue asked about the committee to increase participation in town meeting. Bobbi explained that Mike Caccavo tried to organize meetings but no one attended. There was a survey but COVID put the discussions on hold. Lucy Blue indicated that she heard Bobbi speaking on the radio. Bobbi explained that there was a lawsuit against some towns (but not Marshfield) because they limited their office hours due to COVID. The lawsuit was dropped.

There was a discussion about the poor attendance at this meeting and whether or not to consider switching to Australian ballot. Rich Phillips suggested that if we ever switch to Australian ballot, we should hold the informational hearing earlier, before people have voted. Bobbi explained that we have to hold the hearing within 10 days of the vote, but we could hold another hearing earlier, or we could hold budget hearings when the budget is being prepared.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the informational hearing held on March 30, 2021.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
